

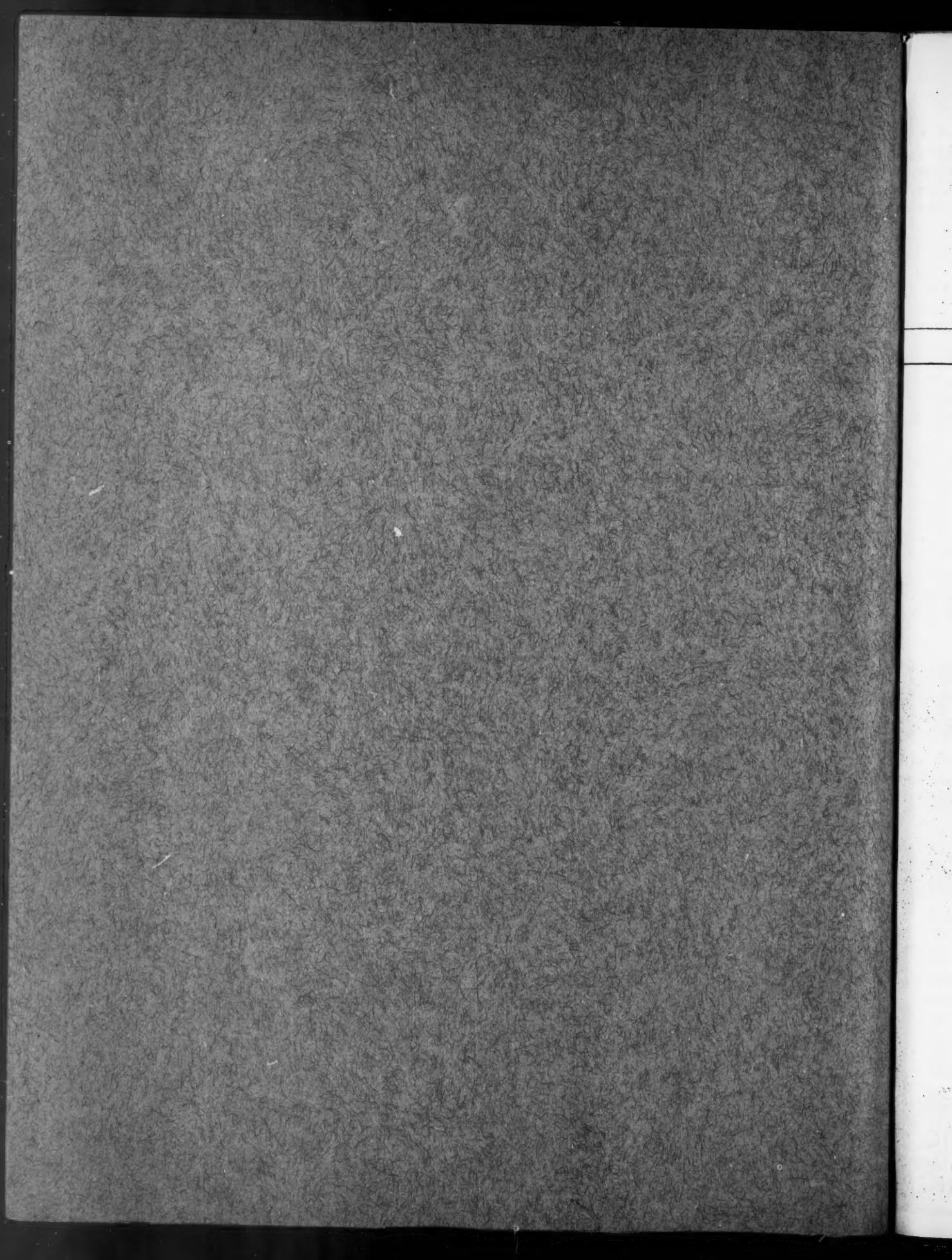
Vol. no. 2  
Jan. 1956

# MONTANA LIBRARY QUARTERLY



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
MONTANA STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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# THE MONTANA LIBRARY QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the Montana State Library Association

Volume 1, No. 2

January 1956

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The Montana Library Quarterly is sent free to members of the Montana State Library Association. To all others the annual subscription is \$1.50 payable to Mrs. Clare Smith, Public Library, Miles City, Montana

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# YOUTHFUL YESTERDAY

Note: Last year, a group of Montana authors showed their appreciation of libraries by writing for the MSLA articles on books and libraries. These were sent to all the newspapers in the State but there was no way of telling how many printed them. These articles are so interesting and delightful that we are reprinting them in the Quarterly. The first one follows. ED.

## LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY

Naomi Lane Babson

When I was a child our village library was open only Saturday afternoons and evenings. And it would generally be after Saturday night baked beans and brown bread that my brother and I collected last week's books, and took the mile walk "over Schoolhouse Hill and down to the Cove" for a fresh load.

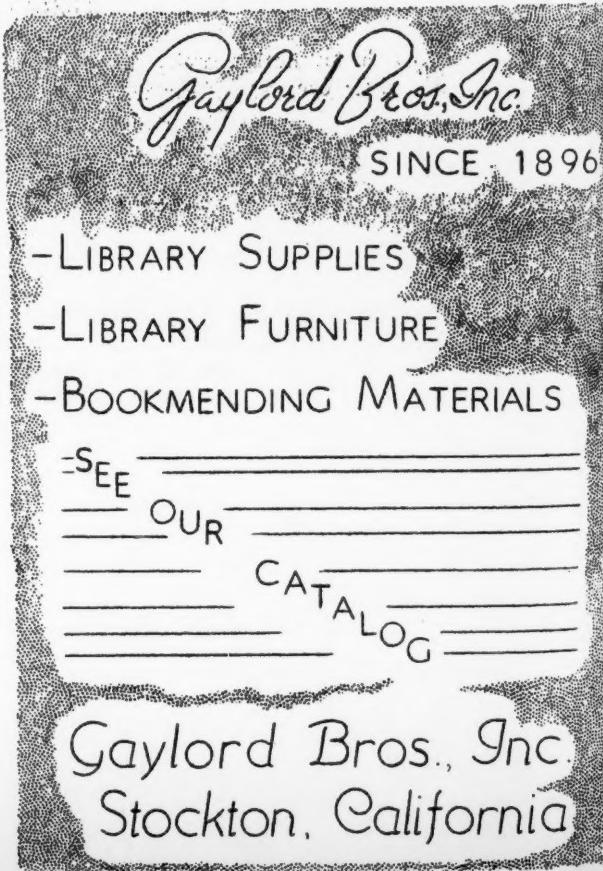
A limited and hit-or-miss collection awaited us, but it didn't seem so then. The horizon stretched a little wider, the sky arched higher after every library trip. I had progressed from Little Prudy books through Alcott, Mary P. Wells-Smith's (even today enchanting) stories of Old Deerfield, and G.A. Henty, to such still remembered titles as When Knighthood Was In Flower, or When Patty Went To College, before high school days made the Carnegie Library in town easily available.

Today, with movies, radio, television, and comic books on all sides, libraries may appear both less glamorous and less essential. But this is a false assumption, and the child deprived of a chance to read according to his individual interests has lost some part of the American heritage.

In the first place, reading implies a shared effort. Experience, knowledge, pleasure, adventure, are acquired from the printed page only by active and willing participation on the part of the reader.

And, secondly, movies, and other mass-appeal media cannot offer either to children or adults, a balanced diet. You won't find poetry on the screen, nor letters, nor delicate phantasy. Alice in Wonderland, or The Wind In the Willows are a great deal more than a Walter Disney production. Looking at pictures and listening to radio programs may be additions to, but not substitutes for reading.

In a big state like Montana, with its small population and scattered communities, library buildings may be hard come by. But modern facilities such as bookmobiles and our excellent Library Extension Service can make good books available anywhere. And there should be no Montana resident, child or grown-up, who can't say in effect: "Let's go to the Library."



# AMONG FRIENDS

Harriette E. Cushman  
State Chairman

You will receive this close enough to the first of January for me to wish you a Happy New Year and trust that it will really be a good year for all Friends of the Library.

This will be sort of a "go thou and do likewise" message. On November 30, I was guest at the first dinner meeting of the Glacier County Friends of the Library. It certainly was a huge success. I wish that all of you who have started a Friends Group or are contemplating one could have attended. There were over 150 people present. What was most interesting to me as I looked over the dinner group was that they were all alert progressive men and women of the Cut Bank community. They were certainly all of leader caliber. As one of the County Commissioners remarked who sat at the head table, "I didn't know the Library had so many friends, and friends of this sort."

The credit for the success of the splendid beginning certainly goes to Mrs. Ruth Longworth, the Glacier County Librarian, and a half dozen of her loyal supporters. I can't name them all, but it would be an omission if I did not mention Mr. Harold Nelson, the President and his wife, Mrs. Carmin Stufft, the able Treasurer, and Mrs. Helen West.

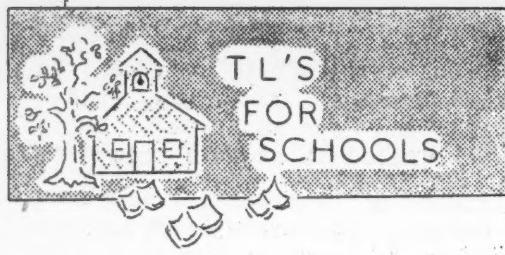
As has been suggested the Glacier County Friends group is made up of representatives of all the local organizations of the county, that is members chosen to represent service organizations and any other active group in the county. If you want to have the details of just how they went about it, it would be well to write to Mrs. Longworth. She certainly has the magic touch. But with lots of faith and hard work it could be achieved by any community.

Besides a good meal to put everyone in an excellent frame of mind, they had a good program, and not too long. Every speaker was limited to about 15 minutes.

The high light of the evening was Miss Margaret Scherf, the writer of mystery stories from Kalispell. Peggy has at least 18 published books to her credit and has a most clever way of speaking. She kept everyone in a gale of laughter. If you can't get Peggy for a banquet in your town, there are a number of famous authors in the state who are more than anxious to help out such a good cause.

Initial enthusiasm is perhaps the easiest part of getting a new organization started. The real job is to maintain interest. This the Glacier County group has planned. As stated before the various organizations of the County have representatives on the board of Friends of the Library. Once a month these representatives have a chance to give their own organizations a shot in the arm. In order that these persons will have proper ammunition, the Friends have prepared brief concise paragraphs for the members to present to their own clubs about Library service and reading. For example, the November one was an explanation about Friends of the Library, urging everyone to become a member; in December the paragraphs concerned books which were available about Christmas cooking, gift wrapping, records of Christmas music and recorded Christmas stories which could be borrowed; then for January the theme is "Shall I buy, build or rent?" I am sure the Glacier County Library will be glad to furnish you with copies of these suggestions. I also have copies and will gladly copy the material for you.

One other matter which should be mentioned. The bill for "Federal Aid For Library Service In Rural Areas" comes up before Congress in the very near future. I have several copies of the Hearings of the bill for distribution. We earnestly hope that all the good friends who did such a masterful job in getting funds for our own state will acquaint themselves with this bill and write to our Montana Congressmen telling them why we feel it is important to have the bill passed. There is nothing like a deluge of letters to make up a Congressman's mind. Please get busy with this duty at once.



Eilene M. Morrison

"WHY DOESN'T JOHNNY READ?"  
"WHY DON'T JOHNNY'S PARENTS READ?"

Parents who enjoy reading and share that enjoyment with their children will start a child on a lifetime habit of using books for pleasure and information. We, as teachers and librarians, have a responsibility to continue to make available books for such a child. Annis Duff's new book Longer Flight will be a good suggestion for parents interested in family reading. But many youngsters come to school with no experience with books (except the comics). For these individuals we must be both parent and teacher and open for them a vast area of pleasure. The right book for each child is vital. If we don't have it in the school library we must try the county library and the library extension service. Everywhere throughout his school experience he needs to find interesting books. Someday he will SEE them.

The challenge for creating a library room or corner can be intriguing to a teacher and her students. Often creating a library area from odds and ends is more satisfying to the youth than finding the finest library furniture installed for him. Where students have had a part in the creating, their interest in the library and the books it holds is already obtained. It might be the means of helping him SEE the books.

If your district has the money for fine furniture it is wonderful. If not, give most of us \$25 and with the children's help we could make an attractive library corner. A small library room would require more but imagination helps. So, short of space and money? Need a table that can be removed when the space is temporarily needed? What's wrong with a card table plus a round folding top? Or an old oak dining table may be available in an attic of your community. (Table legs can be shortened for the younger groups. Sturdy unpainted chairs are

quite inexpensive. Extra bookcases can be made from planks and bricks or pipes. Paint and energetic workers can do the rest. Use color on the tables, chairs, and bookcases but keep it gay yet dull. Use flat not glossy paint and avoid glare. Save money on the furniture and buy BOOKS.

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A new Children's Catalog will be published in the fall. Remind your county superintendent to budget for it. Several were going to order it along with other aids for the use of the smaller school staffs.

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Talk over your purchasing with your county superintendent. If several schools put an order in together, it might mean a bigger discount. True, a few extra hours of work for a small committee will be required, but it would mean extra books for the children.

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Need help selling your administrators on the SAVINGS made through buying catalog cards from H.W. Wilson? Make a chart showing how many cards must be typed for the average book. Make an identical chart using the Wilson cards. Estimate the time needed for each set and the cost involved in materials and time. The cards used alone will cost at least a fourth of the 8¢ charged for a Wilson set. The savings of dollars and cents and TIME will impress your administrator and he will respond when he understands.

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If we could only have one item to use for mending books, I think we undoubtedly would vote for the new plastics put out by most library supply companies. (They now have convenient plastic bottles.) Solvent with water, they do everything! But if you have a COLD building during weekends, better bring out your summer insulated picnic bag or box to save the plastic from those chilling zero hours. It freezes and that destroys its value.

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Teaching the use of the card catalog? Giant catalog cards may be purchased from several sources if you don't have the time and energy to letter a set. These make it so every student can see and follow your explanations.

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For the past two months the Library Extension Commission Library has been in the throes of moving from the old quarters in the University Library building to several rooms in the ASMU Building known to this generation as the State Correspondence Building, since the State Correspondence School has been housed here for some years. The University Library in its transition to open-stacks and a greatly augmented circulation area, needed to use Room 114 during the time that the upstairs would be cut off from the lower floors, and the Extension Library had to go.

The quarters now occupied are not so much smaller in dimensional measurements, but

they are cut up in small segments so that actually we seem to be occupying about half the space we did in the University Library building. Arranging the furniture and books has required a great deal of planning and the results are, at best, a compromise. But the library is functioning again, after a month's frantic scrambling among stacks of books, boxes, and paint cans. We hope that everyone's patience has not been too much tried by this interval of upheaval.

Radio spot announcements will be resumed early in the month of January, and it is expected that a new service to newspapers will be initiated. The "filler" items sent are similar to spot announcements in that they are used to fill in spaces where the news stories do not quite fit. General information about Montana libraries will be used at first, but specific news items about the local community will be more appreciated and more used, so librarians, take note, and plan to send in some fillers to your local paper. Some samples will be shown in the next issue of MONTANA LIBRARIES.



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AND EFFICIENT SERVICE...



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Missoula Typewriter Co.  
Missoula, Montana

Great Falls Office Equipment Co.  
1201 Central Avenue

Billings Office Equipment Co.  
Billings, Montana

Montana State Library Association  
Forty-second Annual Meeting  
Miles City May 6-7, 1955  
Proceedings, Part II

Mrs. Schenk's talk was followed by a symposium on the subject of "Cooperation among Libraries, Friends and Trustees", with Mrs. Schenk as chairman. Other participants were David Clift, Mrs. Graybill, Harriette Cushman, Mrs. Scanlan and Perl Coombs.

Mr. Clift opened with the remark that in answering the question of how a library can get cooperation he was going to say a number of elementary things. In the first place there were two essential reasons for seeking cooperation: to give more fully of library services and, conversely, to get additional support for a program of better service. To secure full cooperation certain attitudes and activities are necessary on the part of librarians:

1. There must first be a desire to cooperate. The library staff must demonstrate out going and out giving characteristics. This must begin with the head librarian and be reflected in all the members of the staff. Mr. Clift suggested that, in the words of Emerson, "An institution is the length and shadow of one person."
2. Librarians must make themselves fully familiar with their communities. They must steep themselves in the community's problems, history, program and plans and then consider how their libraries can serve the community in light of this knowledge and understanding.
3. They must be devoted to spreading information about their libraries until the people of their communities become extremely knowledgeable of their libraries' services and the conditions under which such services are rendered. It is commonplace that the accomplishment of any program requires planning ahead--an understanding of where the program is leading and how it is going to get there and a recognition of the facilities that will be needed if it is to reach that goal. It is

the latter that librarians must always be speaking about in order to get effective cooperation from governments of all sorts.

4. Lastly, librarians must have a positive plan of assistance to community programs. Their theme might well be: plan well, perambulate wisely, procrastinate never, persuade always.

Mrs. Scanlon spoke on the role of the library trustee in furthering cooperation. She began by giving a little personal history. Fourteen years ago, in 1941, M. S. L. A. met in Miles City. Up to that time she had been in the Library only to borrow books or to look up references. During the convention she had charge of transportation services, incidentally attended the meetings and became interested in the wider aspects of library service and its administration. The next year the mayor appointed her to a vacancy on the Board of Trustees and she has served ever since. She enumerated the responsibilities of trustees:

1. They should recognize that it is a civic honor to serve on the Library Board.
2. They should endeavor to give the best library service possible to a community for the amount of money appropriated.
3. They should educate the community to want better library service.
4. They should publicize library service.

She also mentioned general business experience and strong public-mindedness as the two most important qualifications of the good trustee. She added that it is the Board as a unit that holds the responsibility and powers and not the individual members and there should be the utmost trust and confidence between the Board and the library staff. It is the duty of the librarian to draw up a library program; it is the responsibility of the Board to decide whether that program should be executed. The raising of funds is distinctly a trustee's duty. In closing Mrs. Scanlon recommended for all trustees the examination of the American Library Association's Manual for Trustees.

In continuing the discussion of how trustees can cooperate with the Library

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in furthering better service, Mrs. Graybill said she was going to throw out some seemingly contradictory ideas as to what type of person a trustee should be:

1. The trustee should be a good listener--a listener to the aims and ideas of the librarian and a listener to general discussion of trends that are pertinent to library problems. He should be a good listener to the public, finding out what representative people think of libraries and librarians and what they expect of the library and thus serving as a liaison between the library and the public.
2. He should be a good speaker. He should speak to the librarian of things he has heard in the community; he should speak up in Board meetings; and he should speak up on behalf of the library groups and in meetings that he attends. When he hears criticism of the Library he should be prepared to answer it and to give reasons for the actions of Board and Library Staff that are being criticized.
3. He should be a saver. He should bring economic ideas to the Board and be a watch dog on the taxpayors money, ever careful that there is no tendency for the Board and Staff to think, because they are dealing with public money, that they can spend it thoughtlessly or wastefully.
4. He should be a spender. He should spend in order, in the long run, to better the library and should spend in order to bring new ideas into the administration of the library. He should also spend appreciation. He should be a spender of praise for the librarian, telling her of the good she is doing; and he should be a spender of praise for citizens of the community who have the intelligence to want, for their town, what good library service can give it and

who have the aggressiveness to make such service possible.

5. He should be old-fashioned in certain qualities of character as eternal as life itself. He should be scrupulously honest and utterly reliable in matters pertaining to the library, not saying one thing in Board meetings and another outside. He should be kind, unbiased and free to pettiness.
6. He should be modern--up-to-date on what is happening in the library world and modern in wanting his library to express new ideas. He should know that the library must be moving or else it will be left in the background. He should be aware of such standards as "That is the salary we used to pay so that is the salary we should pay now", or "That is the building we used to have so that is the building we should have now". He should realize that such old ideas as "If they want to read let them come to the library" and "Children should be educated when young, therefore there is no place for adult education" have been long out dated.
7. The Trustee should be public-spirited, willing to mingle with people of the community and sell the library to them. He should know that the library ought to reflect not just the ideas and enthusiams of its staff but also those of its board.

In closing Mrs. Graybill said that no one member of the Board can be all these things she mentioned but different members can reflect different aspects of them. Moreover members of the Board can learn from one another. One could well say that a library is just as good as its Board. Therefore we must be very careful in the selection of a Board of Trustees.

Miss Cushman stated that she had been asked to speak about organized Friends of the Library groups from the point of view of a lay friend. She expressed the

hope that Montana libraries would soon have more such organizations than they have now. These organizations can obviously serve a useful function. They can be a means of interpreting the wants of libraries to citizens and of interpreting the citizen's reading needs to those who are in a position to do something about them; they can play a large part in fostering the growth and development of local libraries; and they can aid in securing those extra facilities that help make libraries more personal and alive.

Miss Cushman pointed out, however, that in our state, as in any sparsely populated state, there are many small isolated libraries; many residents who read nothing other than the Montana Farmer-Stockman, a local paper, or the Montgomery-Ward and Sears-Roebuck catalogs; and many communities without libraries a number of which aren't even aware of the services of the Montana State Library Extension Commission. What we need, to better such conditions, is a "state-wide" organization of Library Friends. The problem is where to get membership for such an organization. Montana has a small population for its size and in almost all of our towns demands are made over and over again on the time and energy of most of the public-spirited citizens.

Keeping this in mind, Miss Cushman suggested, it might prove helpful to look at what has been done in Hill County. The Friends there have worked through other organizations, especially through the Home Demonstration clubs. In the Home Demonstration set-up they have found a county-wide, live organization with clubs in all the communities that the County Library serves. The project leaders from these clubs form the nucleus of the Board of the Hill County Friends of the Library Association.

Taking this as a tip, it might be worth while for the M. S. L. A. Friends Committee to contact all going Montana organizations that are at all civic minded. There must be a lot of people interested in reading in all of them. From such organizations there might be secured project leaders or similar officers to form the nucleus for a state-wide Friends of the Library Council. This could be a starting point. Simultaneously the Committee could strive to

increase individual membership, organize local Friends Groups, and work through local organizations.

At this point Mrs. Schenk interposed to say that as librarians we cannot express ourselves warmly enough in appreciation of what the Agricultural Extension Service has done for library development all over the nation.

Perl Coombs concluded the symposium with a summary of what type of things state Friends Groups should strive to do. She stated that friends and trustees must first understand the importance of the library to community life. With that understanding, they should stand ready to assist established local libraries; they should find ways of interesting more groups in local library problems especially those connected with making more books and shelf space available; they should take steps to interest outstanding citizens to become, as board members, a really intelligent and aggressive force for library development; they should help with publicizing library services; and they should help in securing better budgets for libraries. They should give guidance to local groups who are trying to better library development in their communities or to establish initial service. They should aid in securing so-called luxuries for libraries in the way of equipment, such as film projectors, which will enable libraries to render services over and above those ordinarily expected of them. And, in Montana, the state group must recognize the importance of a strong State Library Extension Commission and give it support. The library needs lay people as friends. The burden of interpreting the library to the community should not fall on the trustees alone. Moreover local as well as state groups are needed; but, since each community has its own characteristics, it is difficult to suggest a standard set of activities, and more especially a standard type of organization, that would fit such groups.

Speaking from the floor, Virginia Walton raised the point of the danger of a spearheading organization adopting a possessive attitude towards the Friends Group and refusing to relinquish leadership. In the discussion that followed, this was recognized as a danger and it was agreed that, as far as possible, a

Friend section feasible beginning a course presentation training that something organic In con view, group formalization in the library accompanying this has commun that such as the following such a motion problem sessive was for quish that person a poss or Friends Appeal started someth we must the org ever the in and commit conclu most are tr cooper matter There wrong danger posed At the worth make a meeting meapol began Montan librari and th

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Friends Group should represent a cross section of the Community. Wherever feasible, it should do this from the beginning. Mr. Clift suggested creating a council or Assembly consisting of representatives from all community organizations--in effect organizing a sort of training school about the library so that these representatives would have something concrete to take back to their organizations.

In contradistinction to this point of view, instances were given where one group had served as a faithful and informal Friends of the Library organization for years, giving help without which the library concerned could never have accomplished what it has. Most often this has been the Women's Club of the community. It was recognized, however, that there might be situations in which such a group would prove an obstacle to the formation of a larger unit where such a unit was desirable for the promotion of extended library service. The problem was to convince the overly possessive members of such a group that it was for the public good that they relinquish leadership. Mrs. Schenk suggested that the librarian, or other interested person, go to the individuals who have a possessive feeling toward the library or Friends group and talk to them alone. Appeal to them in this wise: "You started this Library in order to do something good for this community. Now we must broaden the interest. This is the next step which is as progressive as the one that you took in 1900"--or whatever the date might be. Let this sink in and don't first ask those people to commit themselves in open meetings. In conclusion, Inez Herrig pointed out that most civic-minded organizations today are trying to educate their members to cooperate with other groups. It is a matter of their public relations program. There are a few members who have the wrong attitude but not many and the danger of a situation such as had been posed becomes increasingly less probable.

At the end of the discussion Ruth Longworth called on Kathleen Campbell to make a report on the Trustees division meeting at the A.L.A. Convention in Minneapolis, June 24, 1954. Miss Campbell began by saying that when she came to Montana fifteen years ago she found few librarians who were members of A.L.A. and that when she attempted to talk on

the desirability of membership, she was met by the question: "What does A.L.A. do for us?" And she had to admit that at that time it was not easy to find the answer. But the picture has changed immeasurably since then. We have come to the place when today our whole program has come to us from A.L.A.

The meeting at Minneapolis had much to offer the libraries of Montana. Particularly was this true of the Trustees Meeting--one of the most dynamic of all sessions with its panel theme: "Trustees: To be effective or ineffective, that is the question." While the majority of the panel members were trustees and librarians of larger libraries, including Mr. Richards and Mrs. Quigley from Seattle, the panel was geared to the needs of the small public library. Frank T. Milligan, Chairman of the Iowa Library Trustees Section of the Iowa Library Association and Mrs. Merlin Moore, Chairman of the Arkansas Library Commission especially did a superb job of presenting the small library point of view. The panel emphasized that the Board of Trustees' function is advisory and not administrative but the librarian doesn't own the library and shouldn't dominate it. The Board's job is to see that the librarian serves the public. Miss Campbell concluded by giving Mr. Milligan's formula for a successful trustee with the gestures that he had used as she had been directed to do by our President. While Miss Campbell modestly explained that her rendering did not have the spice of the original, all those who saw and heard her felt certain that she must have given to it a spice of her own, and they were convinced that it would behoove librarians as well as trustees to: Keep their eye on the ball, their shoulder to the wheel, their ear to the ground, their foot in the door, their nose to the grind stone and their hand on the throttle.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 A.M., May 8, at the Elks Home. The first session took the form of a general discussion devoted to a consideration of the value of Friends of the Library Groups and to planning a program for the Association's Friends. Perl Coombs introduced Mrs. Evan Narestad and Mrs. Clarence Wehr, President and secretary-treasurer of the Hill County Friends Group and announced that, as a background for a general discussion of the problem, we would first consider what had been

done in Hill County. Explanations and replies to questions by the Hill County delegates unfolded the following facts about an organization founded on a real and very encouraging grass-roots interest in library development.

The impetus for the foundation of the Group began with a conversation Mrs. Moores had one day with a patron who had stepped into the library. They were talking about some of the library's problems and the need that the library had for help with its program. Mrs. Moores told this "informal" friend about the more "formal" Friends organizations which had proved helpful elsewhere. Her companion became inspired and sent out to tell others about Friends Groups. Largely as a result of her enthusiasm a few people got together at her home in Kremlin where they met with Mrs. Moores and Ellen Torgrimson, who had come over from Missoula for the occasion, and did some planning. Before the evening was over a constitutional committee was appointed.

Although the people initially interested in the formation of the Friends Group were not Home Demonstration people the Home Demonstration Clubs had been so public spirited in their backing of the library, that it was suggested they send representatives, which they did. They thus provided a good starting point for the organization and in many ways they have served as its backbone since. However, the Friends Group is by no means confined to representatives from these clubs. Anyone interested in county library development is eligible for membership. The dues are 50¢. The Board of Directors, who at present number eighteen, form the nucleus for what is a rather loose-knit and flexible organization. Any organization or community within the county that is interested and wishes to appoint a delegate to serve as a Director can thus be represented on the Board. This device was adopted as a way of getting in some "strays" who would make influential leaders. So far no one has refused the honor. Hill County's state representative is one of these Directors at Large.

The Board does all the planning--and most of the work. Recently they have sent out letters to the membership outlining the accomplishments of the organization since its inception. The

President and Secretary are chosen by the Board. An effort has been made to see that they both come from the same town, for easier working arrangements, and to rotate the towns among different sections of the county.

The Group was organized in 1948. The strongest factor which got the organization started and which knit it together was a feeling for the need to help and this has been the factor which has kept it vital since. The need at the beginning was to get certain matters ironed out with regard to a political situation involving the library. Consequently from the beginning, the need for governmental backing has been recognized by the Group. Every time an election approaches, the Friends contact each candidate for the County Commission, and ask him how he feels about the Library. When he gets into office he is well aware that there is a strong group interested in the library's welfare. The Friends Group also organized a campaign in support of the two-mill levy and bombarded the two representatives from Hill County with letters expressing their views on the matter.

More specifically, on the local level, the Group has been working for several years to find more space for library headquarters. They have provided the library with some of the so-called luxuries, including a movie projector and tape recorder and two ceiling projectors, and they have encouraged book memorials. The tape recorder and projector are loaned to school and hospitals and to a lesser extent to private homes. In response to Miss Whitmack's remark that in Billings there had been difficulty in interesting people in the home use of ceiling projectors, Mrs. Narestad replied that Hill County had experienced no such problem. When the first ceiling projector was purchased a number of demonstrations were given and since then it, and the second one, have been kept so busy, that there has been no need to further publicize them.

Mrs. Wehr outlined the more formal program of the Group. She explained they held three general or business meetings during the year and two teas--one in the spring and one in the fall. At the Spring meeting for the current year, they are honoring the Council of Home Demonstration Clubs. In the fall they

usually choosing the county officially a Montana nook, as such au sioners vited to meeting of a po taurant tried to qualifi After the work of sion tu been do Jacobs of the jointly and the organiz Extensi leaders to have as to w matter Any Pat She exp with a interes Group, for get the Com In the been on sent to them t sixty m Perl Co are try ape pl clubs i the lib space. sent to fard to so far Doubtless ferent Clare S library and effi from th felt th Friends were ti she wa Miles C tion an

usually have a silver tea in some home, choosing each year a different part of the county for the event. At one especially successful tea they honored the Montana author, Dorothy Bonner, of Chinook, and they would like to have other such author teas. The County Commissioners and their wives are always invited to these teas. Some of the general meetings have been dinner meetings--either of a pot-luck character or held in restaurants--and at these they have usually tried to have outside speakers who were qualified to talk on library matters.

After this excellent description of the work of the Hill County Group, the session turned its attention to what had been done elsewhere in the state. Alma Jacobs said that the Great Falls Friends of the Library Group had been organized jointly by the Great Falls Public Library and the Cascade County Library. It had organized around support of the Library Extension Commission's budget. Its leaders planned, as their next objective, to have the Group spearhead an inquiry as to what people really wanted in the matter of combining the two libraries. Any Patterson described the organization. She explained that Mrs. Jacobs had begun with a small but influential group of interested people in the city. This Group, especially, had been responsible for getting the excellent write-up about the Commission in the Great Falls Tribune. In the county, a Board of Directors has been organized and letters have been sent to home demonstration clubs asking them to send representatives; about sixty members have been lined up.

Perl Coombs said that in Glendive they are trying to work through clubs. They are planning to write letters to all clubs in town explaining the needs of the library, the greatest of which is space. Talks, with follow-up letters, sent to Home Demonstration Clubs in regard to starting a county library have so far met with negative response. Doubtless more time and possibly a different approach is necessary.

Clare Smith said that in Miles City the library has always met with such willing and effective response to calls for help from the Women's Club, that it has not felt the need for an organized group of Friends. It might be different if they were trying to bring in the county, but she was inclined to think that in the Miles City area with its sparse population and great distances, membership in

such an organization would be largely from the city. Mrs. Wehr interposed that distances were great in Hill County but they had not proved a hindrance to getting country people to serve. Mrs. Schenk suggested that in some cases it might be feasible to start a Friends of the Library group for the city and let it work out into the country. That had been the procedure in Yakima, Washington.

It was also advised that, following the Hill County, Great Falls, and Glendive procedure, a librarian wishing to organize a Friends Group on the local level should first think through the needs for the library in that area, explain them to a few truly interested and enthusiastic people and get them to serve as a nucleus for the Group. These individuals could then contact different organized groups and sell them a program of support for the library. Mrs. Narestad stated that initially the most important thing for the librarian was to know the people of her community and which ones she could tap for support. Mrs. Wehr made the point that the Friends Board should keep a program, embracing the needs of the library, constantly before the different groups it was working with but this program should not be so ambitious as to frighten them.

Doris Wilson wondered why all the talking about Friends had been confined to adults. "What is the matter with our young people?", she asked. She urged that Groups should consider the help they might get from the older 4-H members, who would have had experience in working with county and home demonstration agents and who have a real program into which cooperation with a Friends Group would fit beautifully. Harriette Cushman agreed and added that the Builders' Group of the older 4-H is interested in all phases of community development. She also mentioned the Toastmasters and Toastmistresses as a group that might prove valuable to the Friends. They might be persuaded to act as emissaries.

At this point, Mrs. Coombs directed the session's attention to a consideration of what we ought to do on the state level. She advised that during the past year the membership committee had won a lot in the way of enlisting individual support and getting individuals to join the Association but no provision had been made for a program. While our Friends or Associate members had all privileges of membership except the right to vote

or hold office, they were a very scattered group of people with diverse interests and it seemed that they might be a more unified and effective force within the Association if, as lay members, they had some leadership and a program of their own.

The question of whether a Friends Division could be organized within the Association was raised and it was decided that, although the Constitution did not provide for the formation of such a separate division it might be possible to set up an informal or unofficial division, or preferably a committee, to work with the Associate members; and also that it would be in order for the session discussing this question to make recommendations to the business meeting to that effect. The participants in the discussion further decided that it would be in order to recommend officers for such a set-up. Harriette Cushman as

chairman and Mrs. Wehr as secretary-treasurer were the unanimous choice of the session it being understood that Miss Cushman would choose her own corresponding secretary.

Someone asked about the use of the term "associate members". Mrs. Schenk explained that in some areas of the country some people had not liked the word Friends and had substituted the word "Associate". Mrs. Coombs said that her committee had approached lay people and asked them to join as Friends but our constitution uses the phrase Associate members. The session closed with an enumeration of a few of the things that should be part of a state's group program, viz., trying to get more local organizations which would support the Commission, work for helpful legislation and actively endorse building programs, etc.; which would aid in securing publicity for libraries; and which would aid in the distribution of rural reading lists.

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#### NEWS & NOTES

Ruth Longworth reports that preliminary plans for the new Glacier County Library are being checked and that contracts will probably be let April 1. The architects are Pago & Werner of Great Falls.

The new library at Columbia Falls will be open soon after February 1. The former office building was donated by the Anaconda Aluminum Co. and was moved by Flathead County to a site donated by the school district. Renovation has been done by volunteer work with donated materials. Knotty pine paneling and acoustical tile ceiling will insure an attractive and quiet atmosphere. The library is a branch of the Flathead County Library and according to Mrs. Cornelia Sherman, County Librarian, the books will come from the main collection. Mrs. C. M. Rasmussen is branch librarian.

Mrs. Doris Coughlan is in charge of radio publicity for the Missoula Public Library. All three radio stations are cooperating in presenting as spot announcements four or five items of news, word of new books, etc. This is a fine project and it is to be hoped that radio stations in other communities may be persuaded to cooperate with their local libraries.

The Helena Public Library is the recipient of gift subscriptions from Mrs. Florence Sanden MacPherson of Grand Junction, Colorado, an old "Friend of the Library" and from Morrison Flying Service of Helena.

Helena has a Wednesday Book Review Club which meets in the Public Library every other Wednesday.

Troy is another community that has obtained a library building for itself. This branch of the Lincoln County Free Library was officially opened October 19. It is a concrete building 30' x 26' with tile floor, oil heat and fluorescent lights. Mrs. Herrig the County Librarian, reports that 12,036 books were loaned last year from the Troy Branch. Mrs. Frank French is Branch Librarian.

Mrs. Robert Herrig, Librarian of Lincoln County Free Library, has recently been appointed representative of the General Federation of Women's Clubs on the Standards

Committee of the American Association of School Librarians. This Committee has been set up to revise the ALA standards for school libraries. Mrs. Herrig will attend a committee meeting in New York the end of January.

A very successful dinner was held by the Hill County Friends of the Library on October 6. The purpose was to honor Dan Whetstone on the publication of his new book "I Saw the Old West Fade". The toastmaster was Jack Travis, editor of the Havre Daily News. 150 attended.

Hill County Friends have elected their new officers. These are: President--Mrs. Oscar Hoiseth, Gildford; Vice-President--Mrs. James Schucka, Havre; Secretary--Mrs. Jennings Swinney, Gildford.

Hill County Library's program of book memorials has aroused interest in far places. The Santa Barbara (Calif.) Public Library recently wrote for information about it.

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The Havre Public Library is getting new lights on its lower floor and in the children's room.

On the Membership Committee of the MSLA Mrs. William Cowan of Box Elder replaces Mrs. Ralph Purdy. This correction would be made in the list of Committees on p. 2 of the October Quarterly.

Northern Montana College Library, Havre, has received a gift of \$13,000 from G. J. Bonino of Havre. It is to be spent for furniture and books.

The Great Falls Public Library has sent a copy of the Great Falls Reader for November, 1955, and it is full of good ideas for publicity.

During the fall, two local library groups were organized on an informal basis, the Helena and Great Falls Library Associations. They plan to meet

in their own communities for discussion of library matters and also to visit each other's meetings. This seems like an excellent development, and the rest of us will expect many fine ideas to come forth.

The Friends of the Flathead County Library, representing 34 home demonstration Clubs, are actively supporting a plan to build an adequate county court house which would also house the Library. Realization of the situation came to the Friends when the Library was forced to move from the building it had occupied, and the complete inadequacy of all county office space was revealed. At present, it is thought that only a portion of the planned building will be erected to house the Library and four other county offices which at present occupy rented quarters.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of  
Delores Froehlich  
and  
Marie Gambill  
please notify Mrs. Clare Smith, M.C.P.L

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